

Iowa Hunter Education Program Hunting Incident Report

January 1, 2005 - December 31, 2005



**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Jeffrey R. Vonk, Director**

February 2006

Iowa Hunter Education Program Hunting Incident Report



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Conservation and Recreation Division

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The 2005 Hunting Incident Recap is a synopsis of incidents that occurred throughout the state. We would like to thank those involved in these incidents for their cooperation in sharing their stories in the mission to prevent hunting incidents. It is imperative to find out how these incidents occur. The pieces of the incident puzzle are joined together to create a picture of each occurrence. With that, comes a lesson in prevention and a focus in the Hunter Education curriculum.

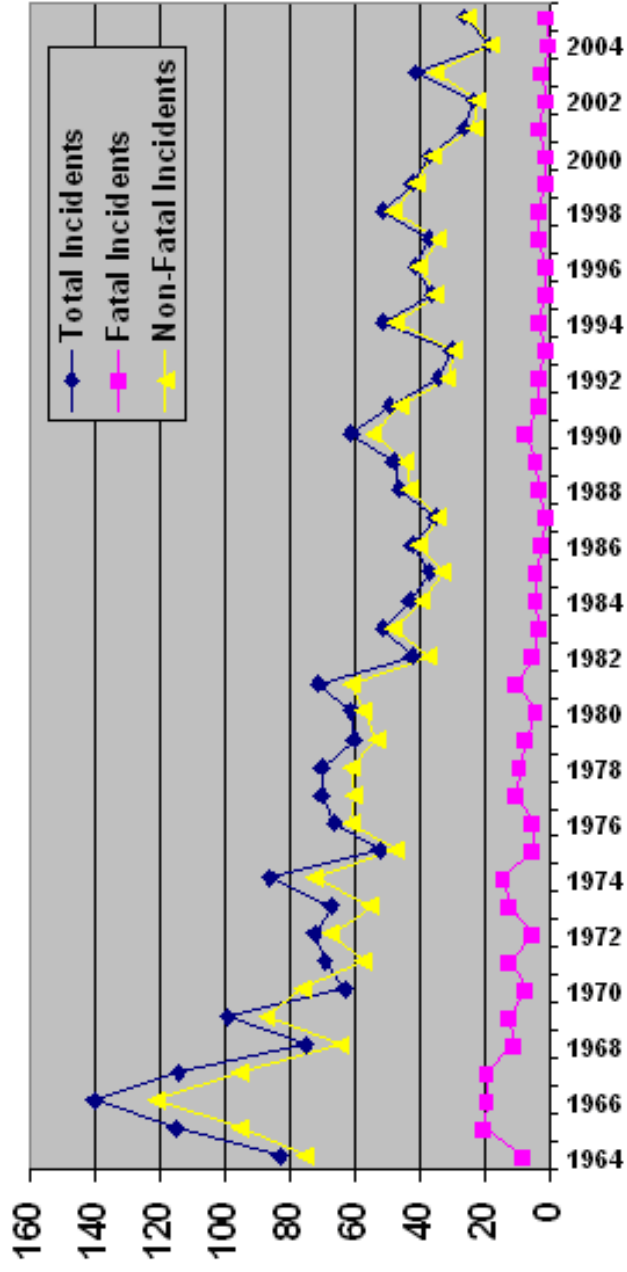
Iowa Conservation Officers continue to work very hard to uncover the facts of each incident. These incidents can be some of the most traumatic experiences a hunter, their companions and families will endure. The people we choose to share the hunt with are our family and closest friends. Making sure our day in the hunting field is a responsibility shared by all of us.

Hunter Education has been the proven key in the reduction and continuing low incident rate based on thousands of hunters that carry on Iowa's rich hunting tradition. Once again, we want to thank those devoted volunteers that study and apply the lessons learned from each of the incidents with the students in the classroom.

It truly is the Volunteer Hunter Education Instructors that help keep the incident numbers low. These dedicated volunteers give of their most valuable commodity, their time to share their knowledge, skill and patience with the next generation of hunters. The heritage of hunting is very important to these people that volunteer their time in the name of safe hunting. Keeping hunting a safe outdoor activity is their priority. Instructors are always encouraged to provide more classes to meet the late fall demand when interest is high. Their tireless efforts are to be commended in the mission of continued safe hunting in Iowa.



Iowa Hunting Incidents 1964 - 2005

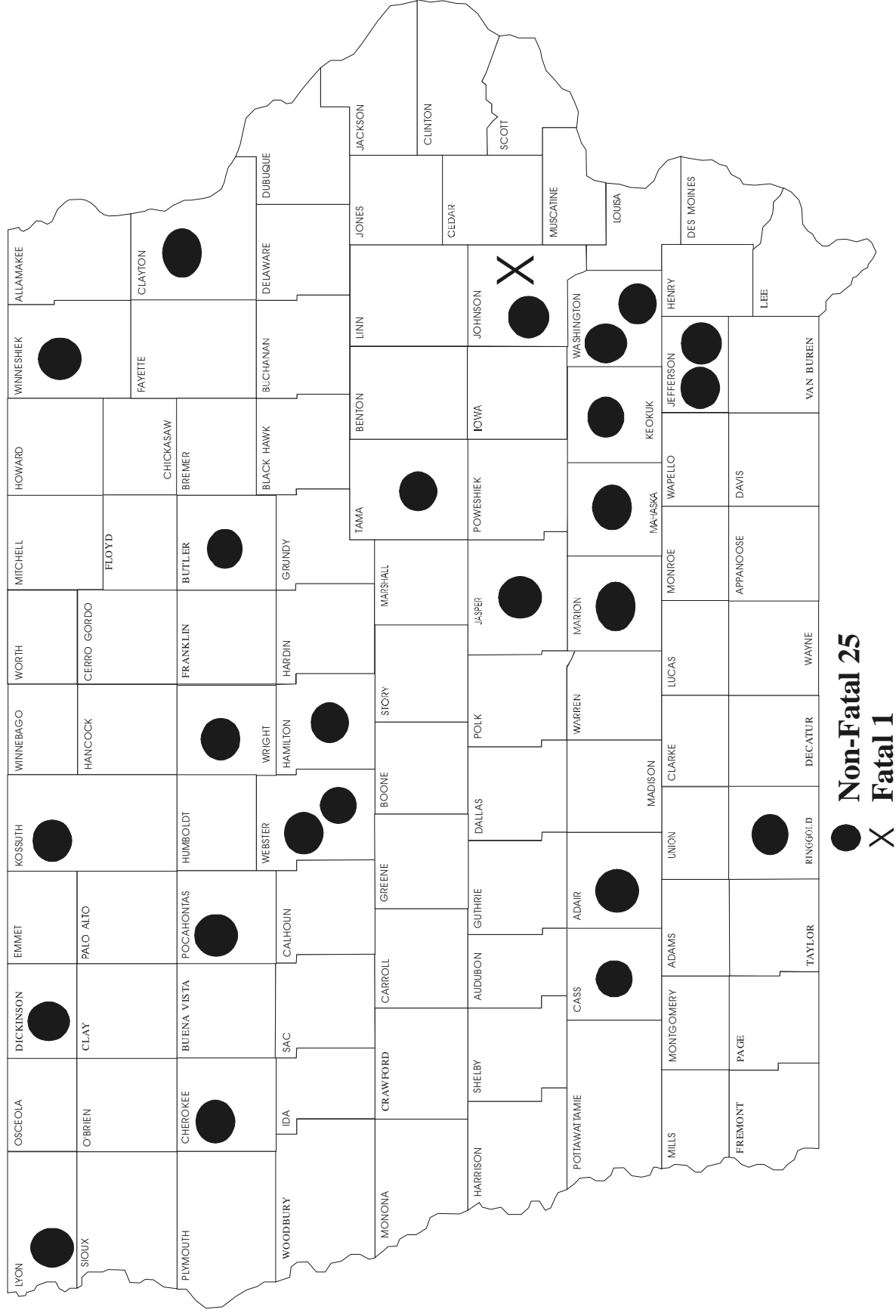


Iowa Hunting Incidents (1964 – 2005)

Year	Nonfatal	Fatal	Total	Year	Nonfatal	Fatal	Total
1964	75	8	83	1985	33	4	37
1965	95	20	115	1986	40	2	42
1966	121	19	140	1987	34	1	35
1967	95	19	114	1988	43	3	46
1968	64	11	75	1989	44	4	48
1969	87	12	99	1990	54	7	61
1970	76	7	63	1991	46	3	49
1971	57	12	69	1992	31	3	34
1972	67	5	72	1993	29	1	30
1973	55	12	67	1994	47	3	51
1974	72	14	86	1995	35	1	36
1975	47	5	52	1996	40	1	41
1976	61	5	66	1997	34	3	37
1977	60	10	70	1998	48	3	51
1978	61	9	70	1999	41	1	42
1979	53	7	60	2000	36	1	37
1980	57	4	61	2001	23	3	26
1981	61	10	71	2002	22	1	23
1982	37	5	42	2003	35	2	41
1983	48	3	51	2004	18	0	18
1984	39	4	43	2005	25	1	26



2005 HUNTING INCIDENTS



2005 Hunter Education Classes By County

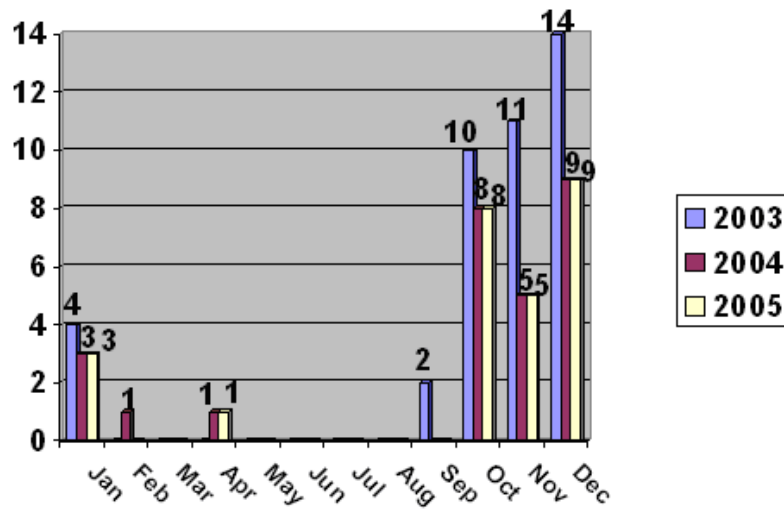
Total Classes: 403

Total Students Certified: 11,614

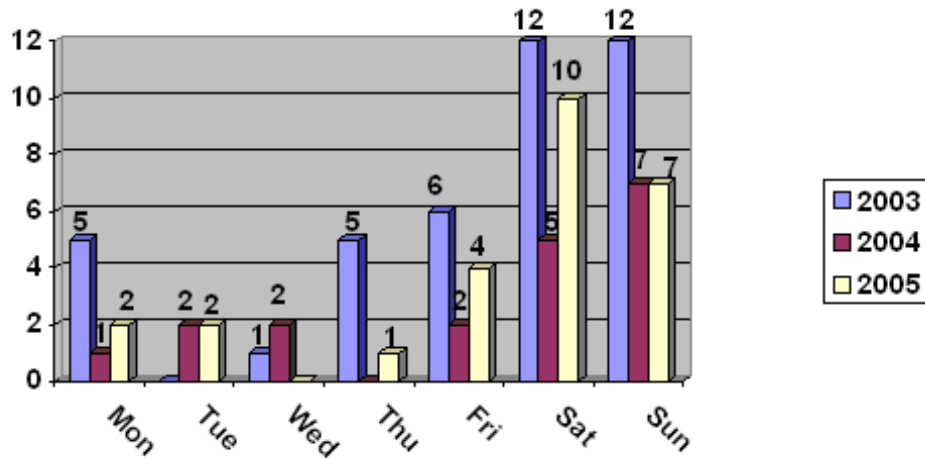
<u>County</u>	<u>Number of Classes</u>
Adair	0
Adams	2
Allamakee	5
Appanoose	1
Audubon	1
Benton	6
Black Hawk	5
Boone	5
Bremer	5
Buchanan	3
Buena Vista	2
Butler	4
Calhoun	2
Carroll	4
Cass	4
Cedar	3
Cerro Gordo	5
Cherokee	6
Chickasaw	4
Clarke	2
Clay	7
Clayton	7
Clinton	4
Crawford	1
Dallas	8
Davis	1
Decatur	3
Delaware	3
Des Moines	5
Dickinson	6
Dubuque	13
Emmet	1
Fayette	5
Floyd	3
Franklin	3
Fremont	1
Greene	2
Grundy	2
Guthrie	4
Hamilton	2
Hancock	3
Hardin	2
Harrison	5
Henry	2
Howard	3
Humboldt	2
Ida	4
Iowa	7
Jackson	5
Jasper	3

<u>County</u>	<u>Number of Classes</u>
Jefferson	2
Johnson	10
Jones	6
Keokuk	5
Kossuth	3
Lee	8
Linn	14
Louisa	2
Lucas	3
Lyon	5
Madison	4
Mahaska	6
Marion	6
Marshall	3
Mills	2
Mitchell	2
Monona	1
Monroe	3
Montgomery	1
Muscatine	4
OBrien	2
Osceola	1
Page	5
Palo Alto	3
Plymouth	4
Pocahontas	0
Polk	14
Pottawattamie	10
Poweshiek	4
Ringgold	1
Sac	2
Scott	11
Shelby	2
Sioux	7
Story	4
Tama	2
Taylor	2
Union	2
Van Buren	6
Wapello	6
Warren	9
Washington	4
Wayne	2
Webster	1
Winnebago	5
Winneshiek	4
Woodbury	7
Worth	4
Wright	3

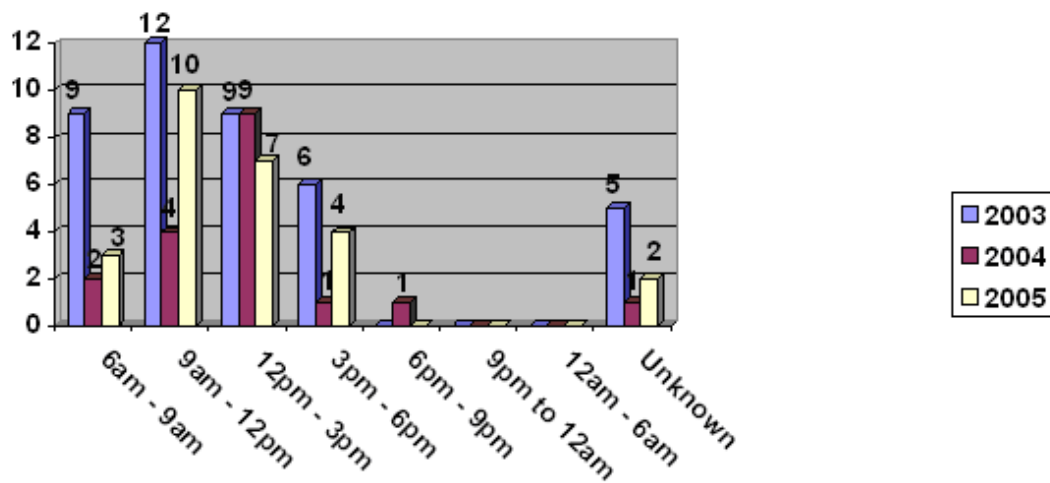
Hunting Incidents By Month



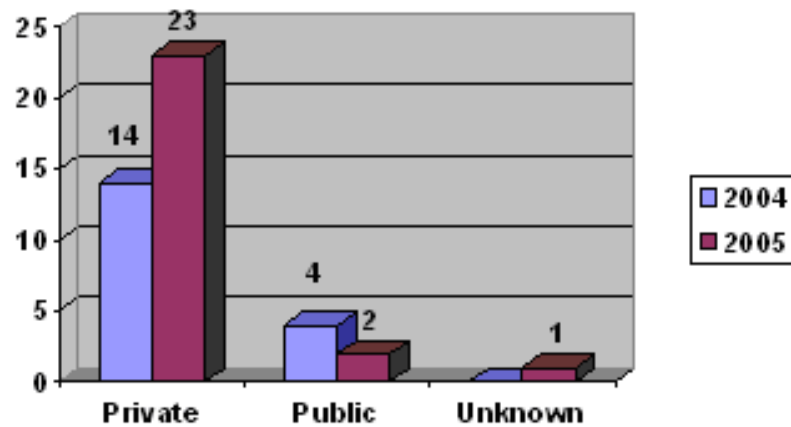
Hunting Incidents By Day of Week



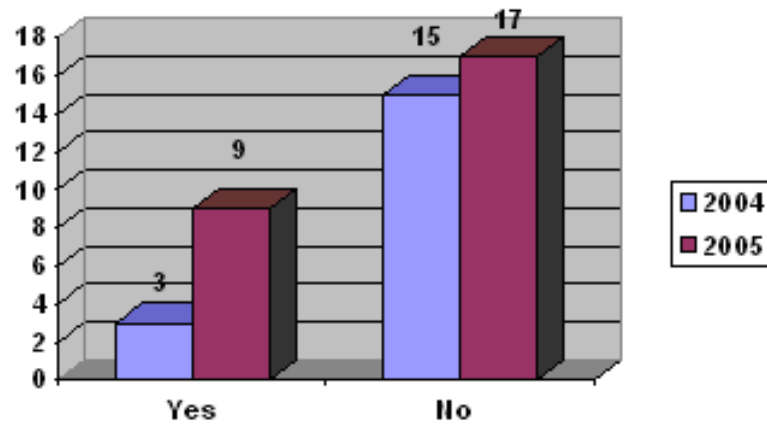
Hunting Incidents By Time of Day



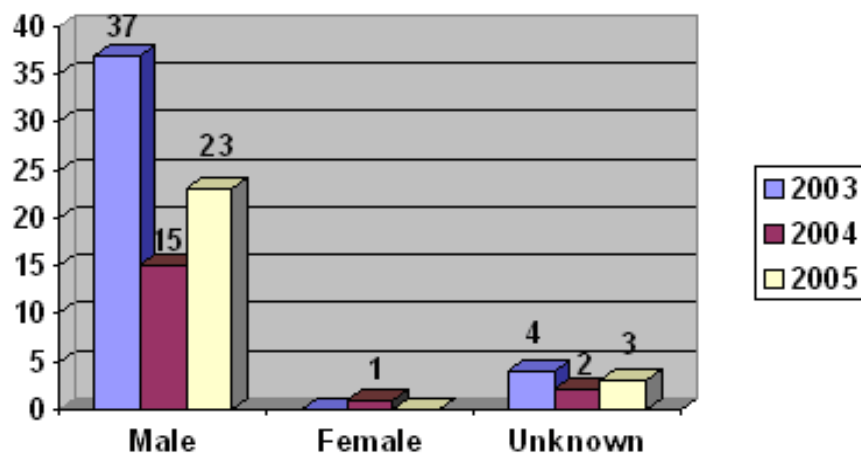
Hunting Incidents By Land Specification



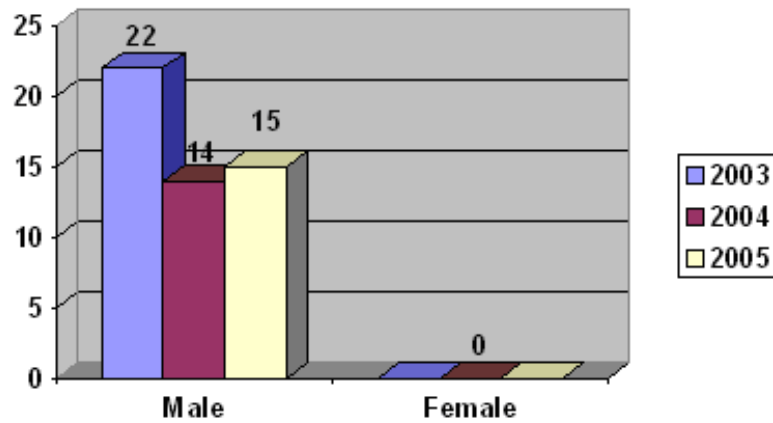
Hunting Incidents Self Inflicted



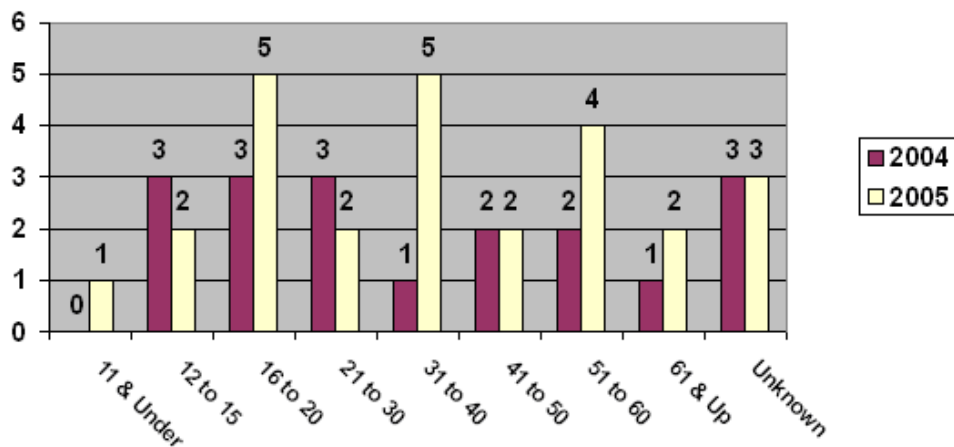
Hunting Incidents By Shooter Gender



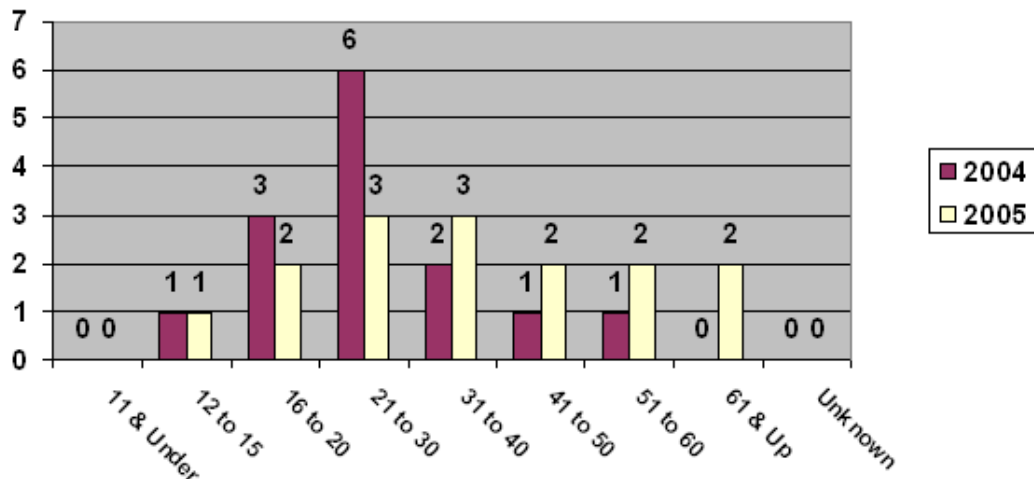
Hunting Incidents By Victim Gender



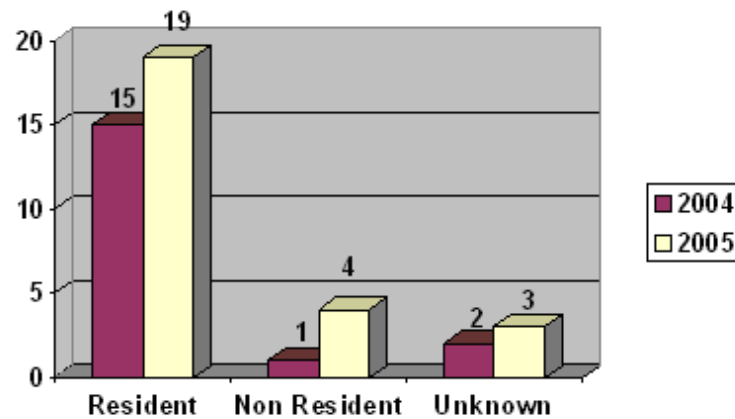
Hunting Incidents By Shooter Age



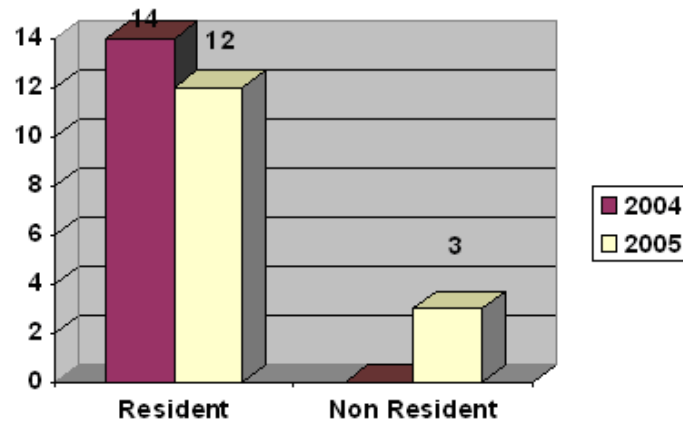
Hunting Incidents By Victim Age



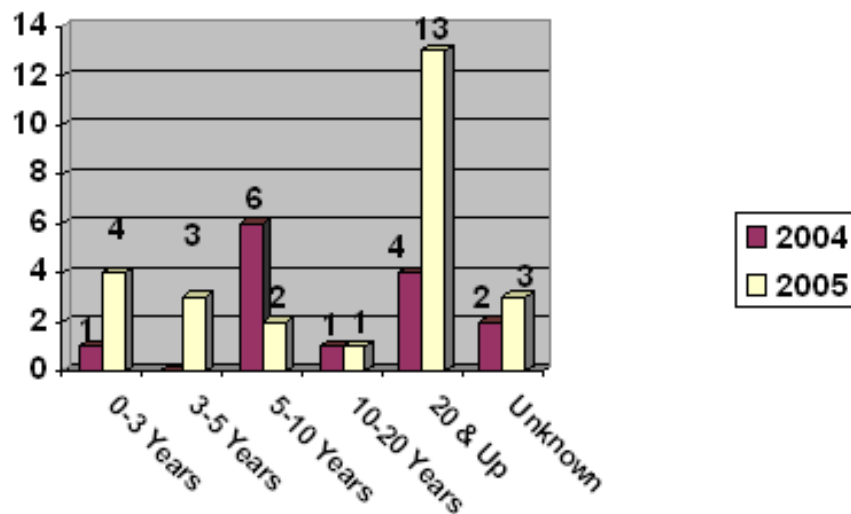
Hunting Incidents By Shooter Status



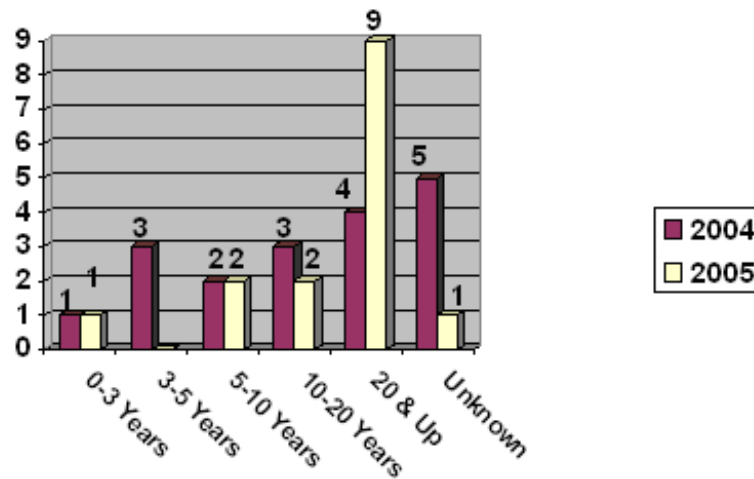
Hunting Incidents By Victim Status



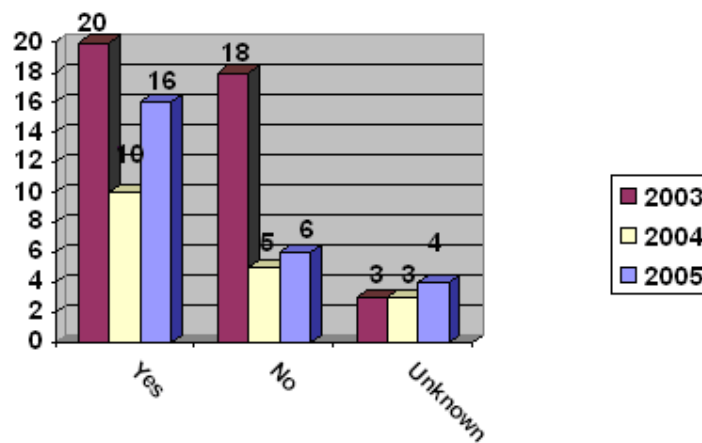
Hunting Incidents By Shooter Experience



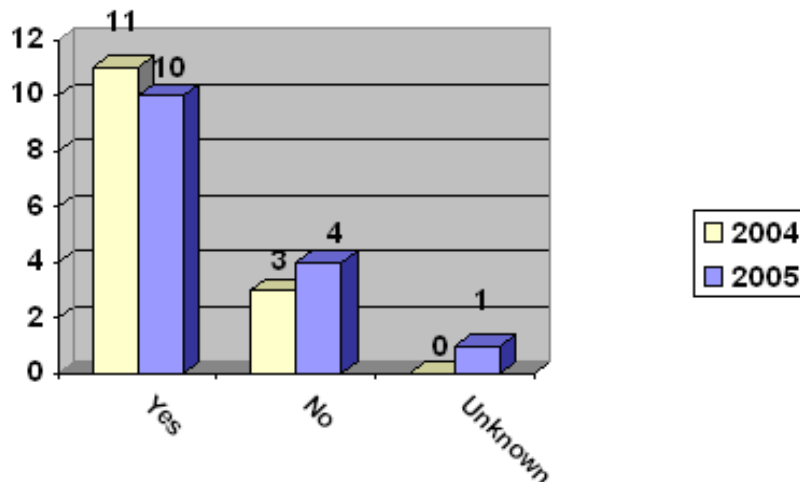
Hunting Incidents By Victim Experience



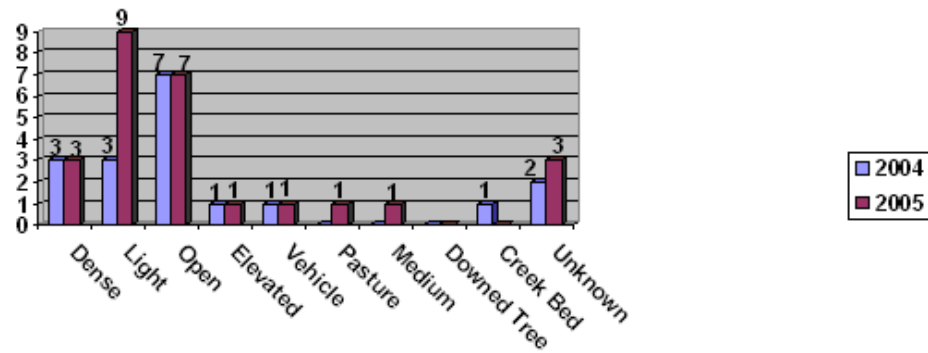
Hunting Incidents By Shooter Hunter Education Certification



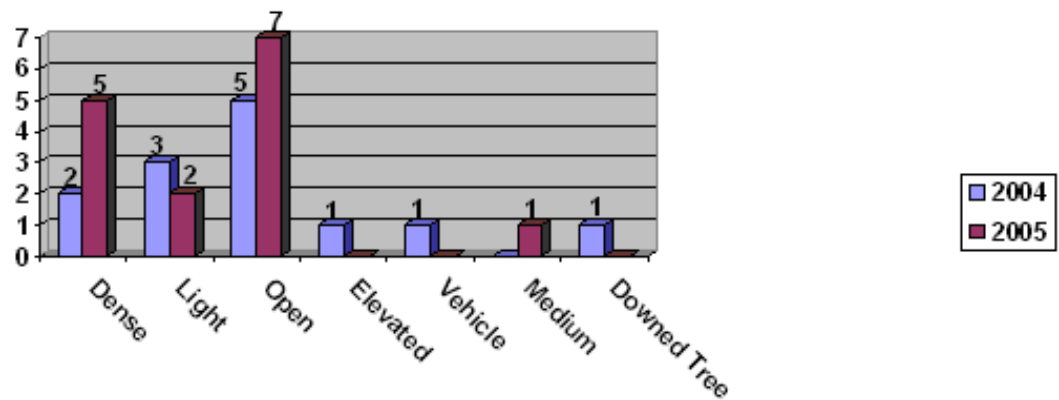
Hunting Incidents By Victim Hunter Education Certification



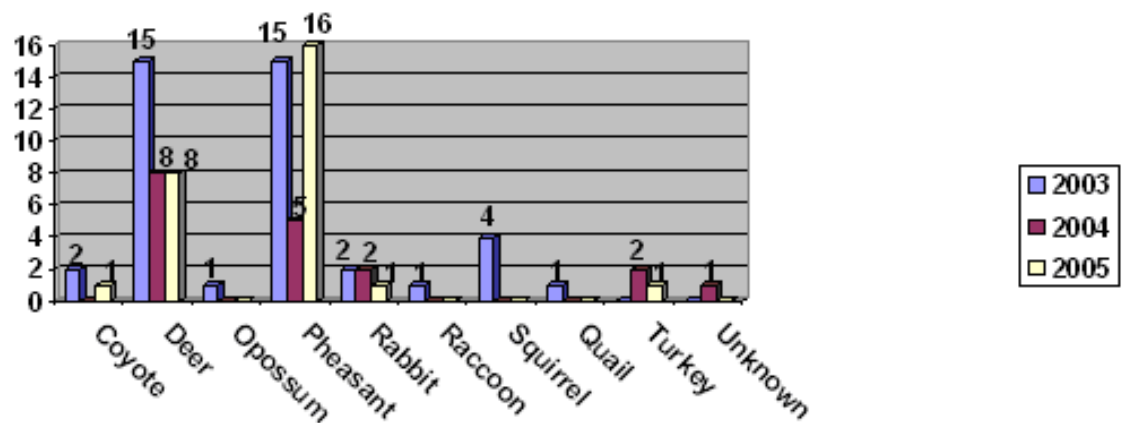
Hunting Incidents By Shooter Location



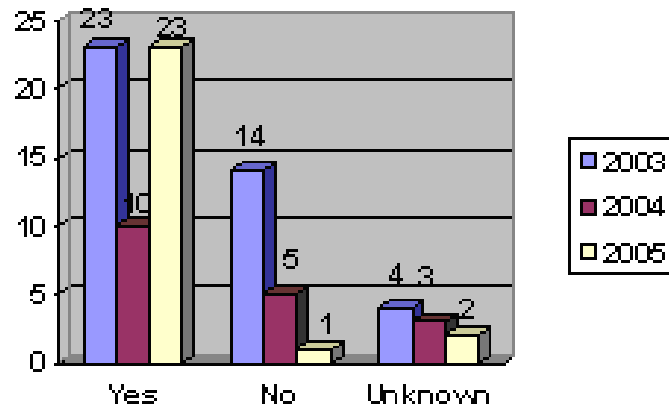
Hunting Incidents By Victim Location



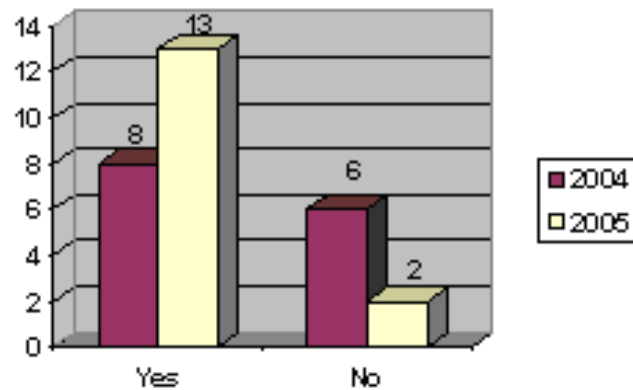
Hunting Incidents By Animal Hunted



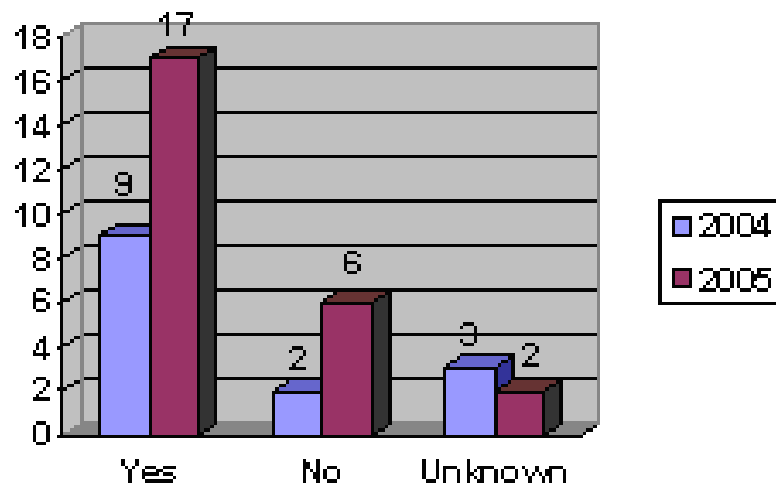
Hunting Incidents By Shooter Wearing Blaze Orange



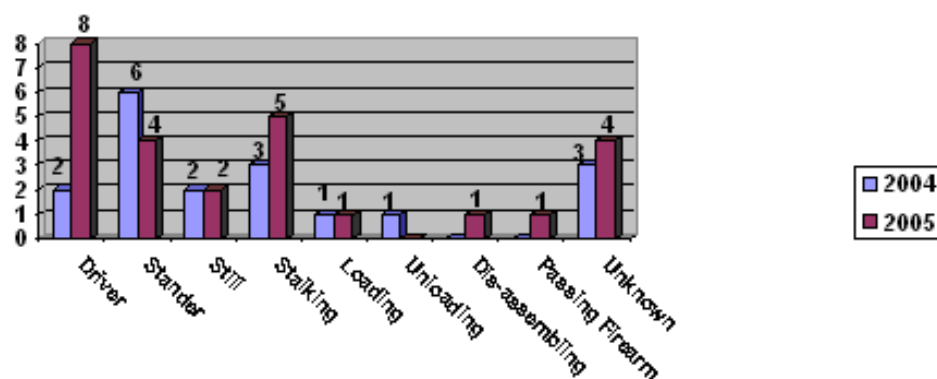
Hunting Incidents By Victim Wearing Blaze Orange



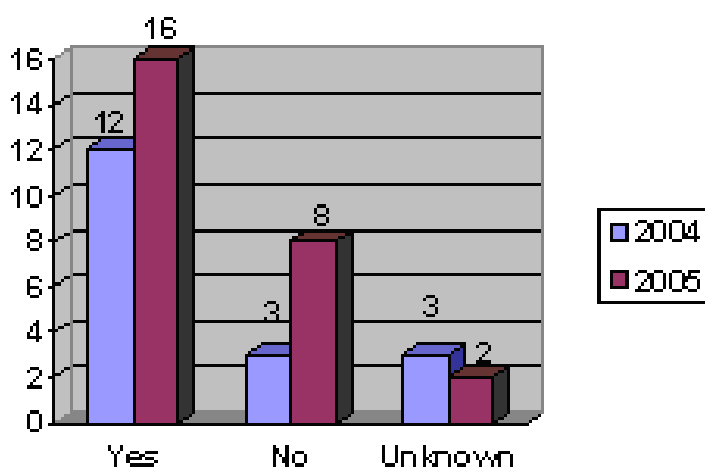
Hunting Incidents By Shooter Could See Victim



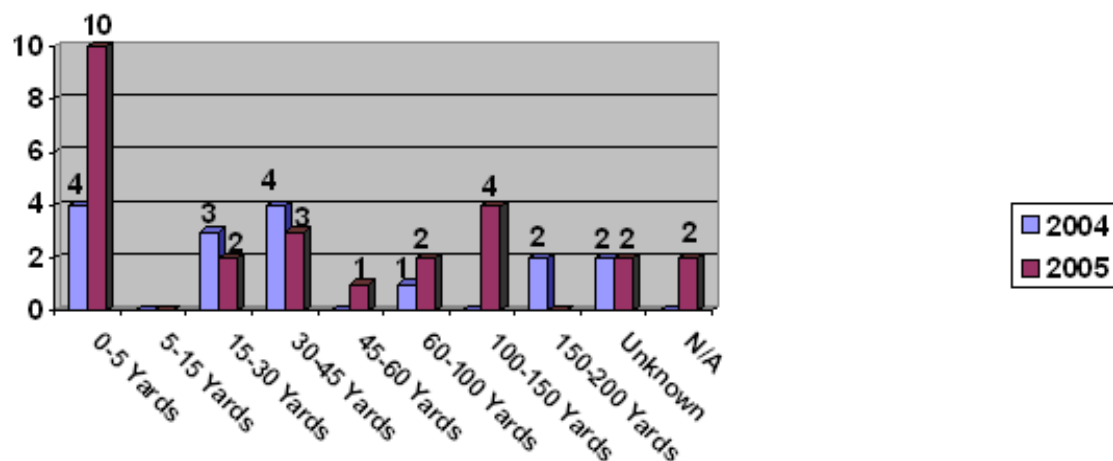
Hunting Incidents By Type of Activity Shooter Involved In



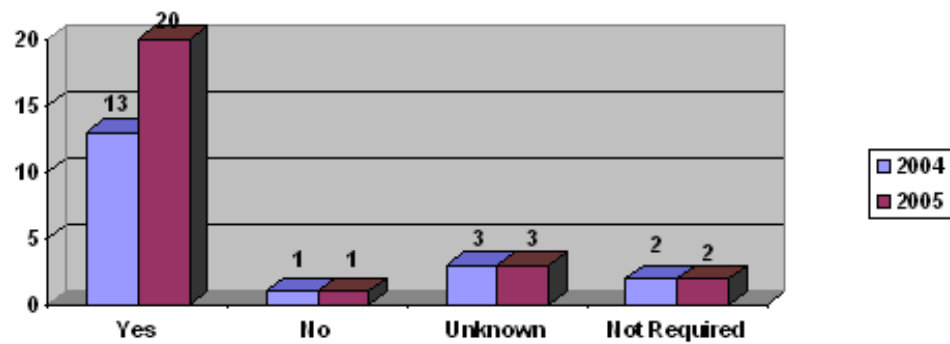
Hunting Incidents By Shooter Attempting to Bag Game



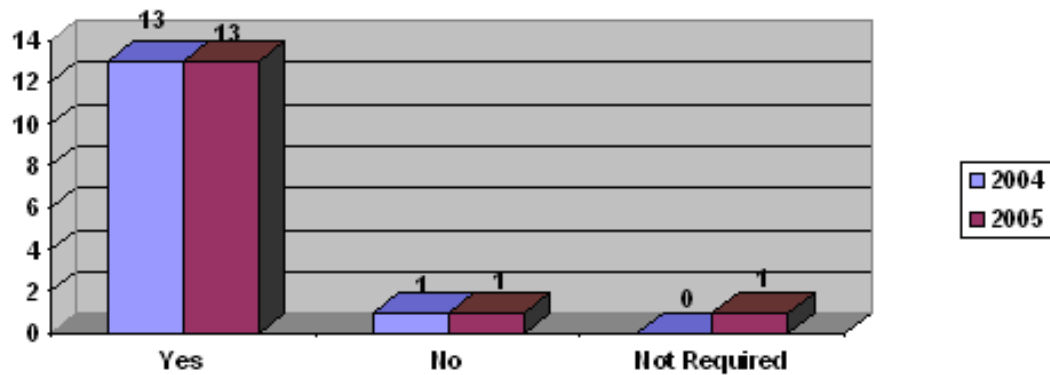
Hunting Incidents By Distance from Muzzle to Wound



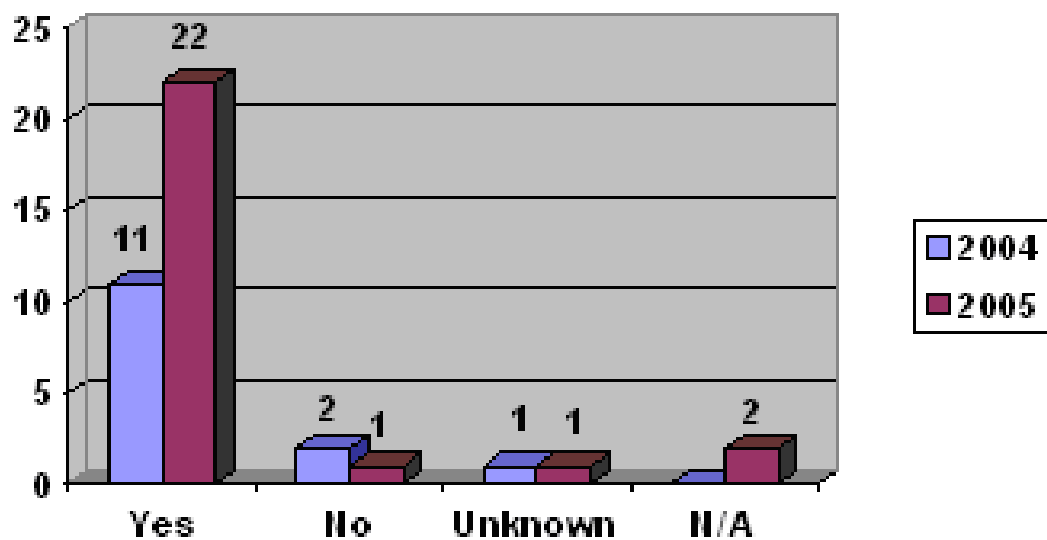
Hunting Incidents By Shooter Hunting License



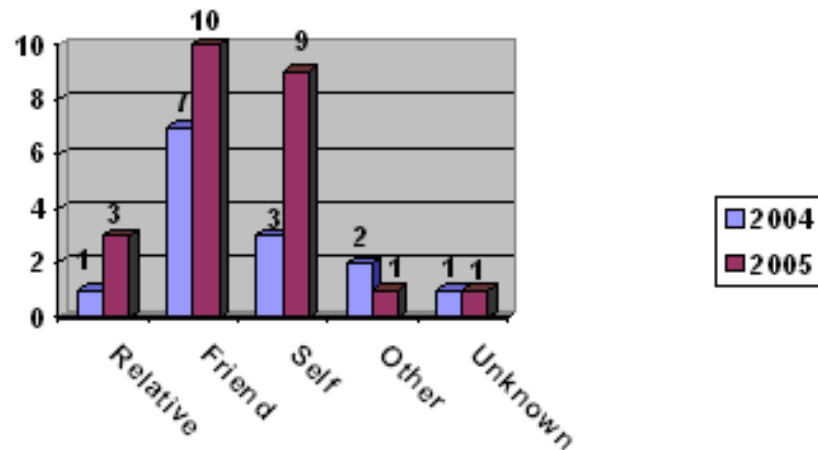
Hunting Incidents By Victim Hunting License



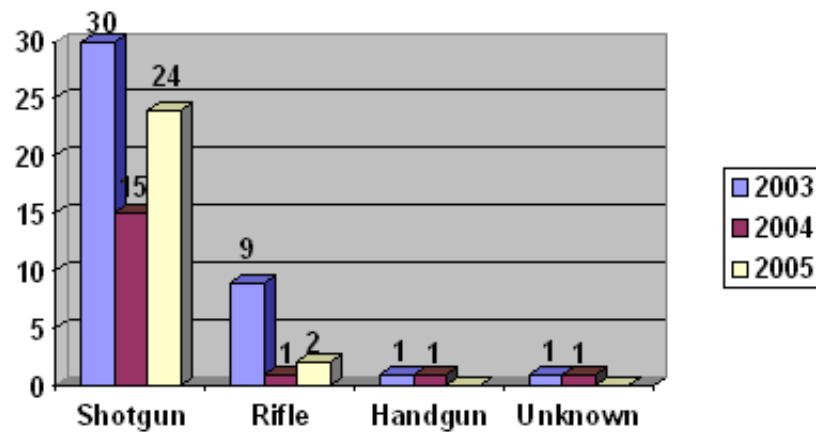
Hunting Incidents By Shooter in Same Hunting Party as Victim



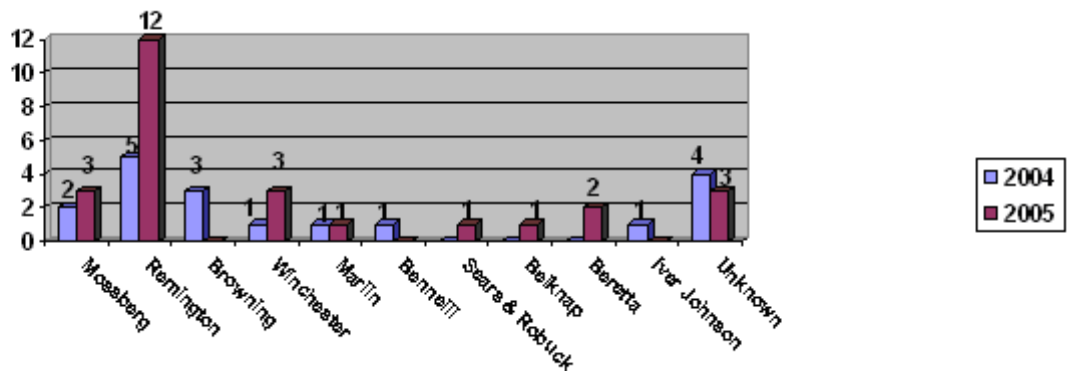
Hunting Incidents By Shooter's Relationship to Victim



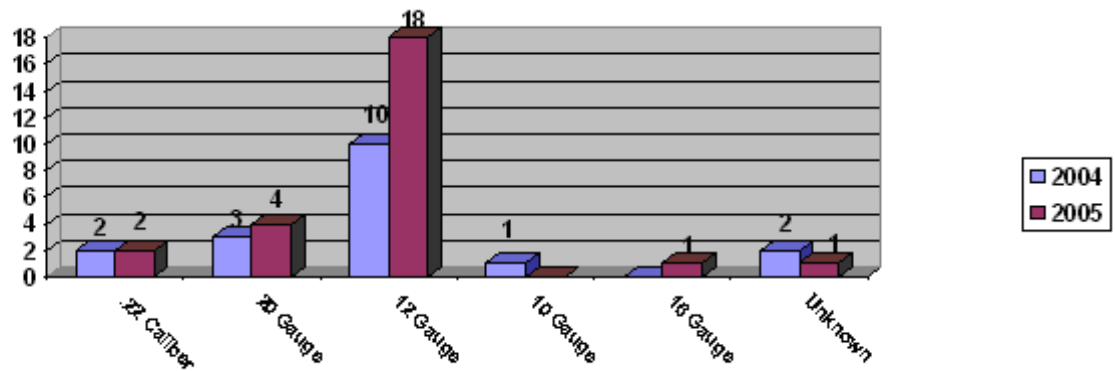
Hunting Incidents By Type of Firearm Used by Shooter



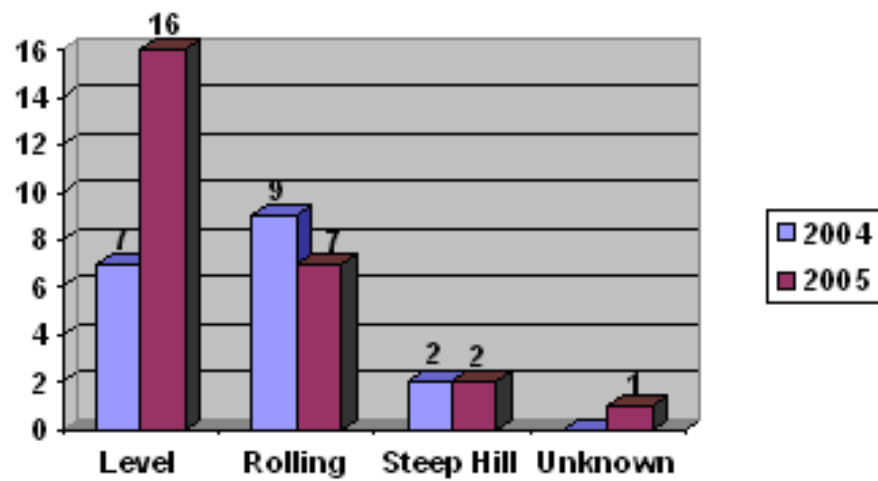
Hunting Incidents By Make of Firearm Used By Shooter



Hunting Incidents By Caliber/Gauge of Firearm Used By Shooter



Hunting Incidents By Topography



Hunting Incidents By Contributing Factor

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Shooter Swinging on Game	9	5	5
Failed to Maintain Safe Zone of Fire	1	0	2
Game Ran/Flew Between Shooter and Victim	7	7	3
Low Visibility	3	0	0
Trigger Caught On Object	2	1	1
Failure To Control Muzzle Direction	3	0	0
Failure To Engage Safety	2	0	0
Shooter Stumbled & Fell	3	1	6
Obstruction In Barrell	2	0	1
Firearm Fell/Insecure Rest	3	0	1
Victim Mistaken For Game	3	2	2
Unloading	1	1	2
Loading	1	1	2
Loaded Firearm In Vehicle	2	1	0
Careless Or Reckless	2	3	4
Inexperience	1	0	0
Victim Out Of Sight Of Shooter	0	6	11
Shooting Too Close To Residence	0	1	0
Poor Gun Design	0	1	0
Victim Was Not Wearing Blaze Orange	0	1	0
Firearm Malfunction	0	0	1

Hunting Incidents By Type of Injury

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Pellets To Legs	1	0	4
Bullet To Foot	2	1	2
Slug To Abdomen	1	0	0
Barrel Exploded - Hand Injury	2	0	0
Pellets To Feet	1	0	2
Slug To Foot	1	2	1
Slug To Torso	1	1	1
Slug To Leg	2	1	6
Pellets To Arms	1	1	1
Pellets To Whole Body	3	0	1
Pellets To Upper Body	8	6	5
Pellets To Face	1	0	4
Slug Grazed Scalp	0	2	0
Bullet To Leg	0	1	3
Slug To Neck	0	2	0
Slug To Groin	0	0	1
Bullet To Chest	0	0	1
Bullet To Head	0	0	1
Slug To Hand	0	0	4

Incident: One

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (X)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party (X)

Date and Day of the Week: 1/8/2005 (Saturday)

County of Incident: Winneshiek

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 13

Hunter Education: Yes

Age: 43

Years Hunting Experience: 2

Blaze Orange Apparel: Yes

Game Hunted: Pheasant

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: 34 Yards

Attempting to Bag Game: Yes

Type of Cover: Open CRP Land

Firearm Used: Remington 11-87 - 12 Gauge Shotgun

Narrative: Six hunters were walking in a line in a west to east direction. The victim was walking approximately 20 yards ahead of the rest of the line. A pheasant flushed and flew between three of the hunters and the victim. The victim turned around and all three fired and struck the victim in the face with pellets.

Cause: Game flew between the shooter and the victim

Prevention: Know what is beyond your target, maintain a safe zone of fire

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Incident: Two

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (X)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted (X)

Same Party ()

Date and Day of the Week: 1/9/2005 (Sunday)

County of Incident: Marion

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 18

Hunter Education: No

Age: N/A

Years Hunting Experience: 4

Blaze Orange Apparel: Yes

Game Hunted: Rabbit

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: Contact (0")

Attempting to Bag Game: No

Type of Cover: Open

Firearm Used: Remington Speedmaster - 22 Caliber Rifle

Narrative: The victim and a friend were rabbit hunting. The victim had just finished lunch and was heading back into the field when he tripped and the gun went off shooting himself in the foot.

Cause: Poor firearms handling, safety off, muzzle not pointed in a safe direction

Prevention: Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction, do not take your gun off safe until you are ready to shoot

Incident: Three

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (X)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party (X)

Date and Day of the Week: 1/13/2005 (Thursday)

County of Incident: Keokuk

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 35

Hunter Education: Yes

Age: 21

Years Hunting Experience: 20

Blaze Orange Apparel: No

Game Hunted: Deer

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: 107 Feet

Attempting to Bag Game: Yes

Type of Cover: Dense Brushy Timber

Firearm Used: Mossberg (Maverick) 88 - 12 Gauge Shotgun

Narrative: The victim was pushing deer to two standers. The victim was mistaken for game since he was not wearing blaze orange and was shot by one of the standers. The slug entered the victim's left thigh. The victim did not have a hunting license.

Cause: Victim mistaken for game, no blaze orange

Prevention: Always wear blaze orange while hunting deer during shotgun season, properly identify your target before taking a shot

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Incident: Four

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (X)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party (X)

Date and Day of the Week: 4/12/2005 (Tuesday)

County of Incident: Decatur

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 58

Hunter Education: Yes

Age: 56

Years Hunting Experience: 40

Blaze Orange Apparel: No (Not Required)

Game Hunted: Turkey

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: 30 - 35 Yards

Attempting to Bag Game: Yes

Type of Cover: Light Timber Cover

Firearm Used: Remington Wingmaster 870 - 12 Gauge Shotgun

Narrative: Two separate groups of turkey hunters entered a farm both unaware to the other group's presence. The shooter's party had entered the farm first and had set up on a ridge. The victim's party entered later on and set up approximately 22 yards away from the first party. At some point the shooter decides to make a stalk on what he assumes is a turkey, when it is the victim calling turkeys. The shooter see what he assumed was a turkey and strikes the victim in the head, neck and shoulder with pellets.

Cause: Victim mistaken for game

Prevention: Always properly identify your target before taking a shot

Incident: Five

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (X)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party (X)

Date and Day of the Week: 10/22/2005 (Saturday)

County of Incident: Dickinson

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 14

Hunter Education: Yes

Age 14

Years Hunting Experience: 1

Blaze Orange Apparel: Yes

Game Hunted: Pheasant

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: 50 Yards+

Attempting to Bag Game: Yes

Type of Cover: Head High Tall Grass

Firearm Used: Winchester 1300 - 20 Gauge Shotgun

Narrative: This incident occurred during the Youth Pheasant Season. A group of two adults and two hunters were hunting a road ditch when the incident occurred. One of the youth hunters, the victim, had downed a pheasant and had gone into the field adjacent to the road ditch in an attempt to retrieve the bird. Another bird flushed between the victim and the shooter. The shooter fired at the bird hitting the victim in the left arm, chest and right leg.

Cause: Inexperience of hunters, heavy cover

Prevention: More experience and refresh rules of hunter safety.

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Incident: Six

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (X)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party (X)

Date and Day of the Week: 10/29/2005 (Saturday)

County of Incident: Butler

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: Unknown **Hunter Education:** Unknown

Age: 22

Years Hunting Experience: Unknown

Blaze Orange Apparel: Yes

Game Hunted: Pheasant

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: Unknown

Attempting to Bag Game: Yes

Type of Cover: Dense Tall Weeds & Grass

Firearm Used: 12 Gauge Shotgun

Narrative: Three hunters walking in a straight line trying to flush a pheasant. The victim heard something behind him so he turned around and started walking in the opposite direction. A pheasant got up and the other two hunters fired at the pheasant striking the victim in the upper body.

Cause: Victim covered by Shooter swinging on game

Prevention: Always know where the rest of your hunting party is before taking a shot (know what is beyond your target)

Incident: Seven

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (X)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party (X)

Date and Day of the Week: 10/29/2005 (Saturday)

County of Incident: Kossuth

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 19

Hunter Education: Yes

Age: 19

Years Hunting Experience: 5

Blaze Orange Apparel: Yes

Game Hunted: Pheasant

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: 100-125 Yards

Attempting to Bag Game: Yes

Type of Cover: Open Field/Cropland

Firearm Used: Remington 870 Express - 20 Gauge Shotgun

Narrative: Four hunters were standing in a line. Two other hunters were walking towards the others trying to flush pheasants to them. A pheasant flew from east to west and three hunters shot at the bird. The victim said he saw the pheasant fall and then felt pellets hit his face.

Cause: Victim covered by Shooter swinging on game

Prevention: Know what is beyond your target, maintain a safe zone of fire

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Incident: Eight

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (X)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party (X)

Date and Day of the Week: 10/29/2005 (Saturday)

County of Incident: Washington

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 34

Hunter Education: Yes

Age: 26

Years Hunting Experience: 12

Blaze Orange Apparel: Yes

Game Hunted: Pheasant

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: 100 Yards

Attempting to Bag Game: Yes

Type of Cover: Light Field/Cropland

Firearm Used: Winchester Super X2 - 12 Gauge Shotgun

Narrative: Six members of the hunting party were hunting the food plot from North to South. Upon entering the food plot one of the dogs went on point. When the bird flushed it flew in a South-South Easterly direction. Three hunters fired at the bird striking the victim below his left eye and in the upper chest/throat area.

Cause: Victim covered by Shooter swinging on game

Prevention: Know what is beyond your target, maintain a safe zone of fire

Incident: Nine

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (X)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party (X)

Date and Day of the Week: 10/29/2005 (Saturday)

County of Incident: Mahaska

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: Unknown **Hunter Education:** Yes

Age: 80

Years Hunting Experience: Unknown

Blaze Orange Apparel: Yes

Game Hunted: Pheasant

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: Unknown

Attempting to Bag Game: Yes

Type of Cover: CRP Field/Cropland

Firearm Used: 12 Gauge Shotgun

Narrative: The victim was a blocker on a pheasant hunt in which several members of the hunting party fired shots at several pheasants that flushed near the end of the drive. The victim was struck by one of these shots and received minor injuries. The victim had two pellets embedded in his hand and neck.

Cause: Victim covered by Shooter swinging on game, game flew between the Shooter and Victim

Prevention: Know what is beyond your target, maintain a safe zone of fire

.....

Incident: Ten

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (X)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party (X)

Date and Day of the Week: 10/29/2005 (Saturday)

County of Incident: Wright

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 28 **Hunter Education:** Yes

Age: 27

Years Hunting Experience: 20

Blaze Orange Apparel: Yes

Game Hunted: Pheasant

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: 25 Yards

Attempting to Bag Game: Yes

Type of Cover: CRP Grass

Firearm Used: Remington 870 Express - 12 Gauge

Narrative: Shooter swinging on game, sprayed victim with pellets from 25 yards.

Cause: Swing on game, game flew between shooter and victim

Prevention: Be sure of background before shooting

Incident: Eleven

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (X)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party (X)

Date and Day of the Week: 10/30/2005 (Sunday)

County of Incident: Pocahontas

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 60 **Hunter Education:** Yes

Age: 44

Years Hunting Experience: 30+

Blaze Orange Apparel: Yes

Game Hunted: Pheasant

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: Contact (0")

Attempting to Bag Game: No

Type of Cover: Open embankment

Firearm Used: Winchester 97 - 12 gauge shotgun

Narrative: Shooter was handing gun to victim (who was at the top of the embankment) and the victim grabbed gun by the barrel. Gun slipped and discharged against the victim's hand.

Cause: Unsafe passing of gun, gun should have been unloaded with safety on

Prevention: Keep muzzle pointed in a safe direction, unload firearm before passing to another person and make sure the safety is on

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Incident: Twelve

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (X)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party (X)

Date and Day of the Week: 10/30/2005 (Sunday)

County of Incident: Washington

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 63 **Hunter Education:** No

Age: 51

Years Hunting Experience: 52

Blaze Orange Apparel: Yes

Game Hunted: Pheasant

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: 80 Yards

Attempting to Bag Game: Yes

Type of Cover: Open Field/Cropland

Firearm Used: Remington 1100 - 20 Gauge Shotgun

Narrative: Eight members of the hunting party were hunting a small grassy area. A pheasant flushed in front of one of the hunters and the Shooter shot at the bird as it flew between him and the victim who was standing approximately eighty yards East of the Shooter. The victim had one pellet removed from his upper, right cheek and one pellet removed from the middle of his right hand.

Cause: Victim covered by Shooter swinging on game

Prevention: Know what is beyond your target, maintain a safe zone of fire

Incident: Thirteen

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (X)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party (X)

Date and Day of the Week: 11/4/2005 (Friday)

County of Incident: Cass

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 42

Hunter Education: Yes

Age: 40

Years Hunting Experience: 25+

Blaze Orange Apparel: Yes

Game Hunted: Pheasant

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: 30-40 Yards

Attempting to Bag Game: Pheasant

Type of Cover: Medium Grass & Trees

Firearm Used: Berretta Silver Pigeon - 12 Gauge Shotgun

Narrative: Victim was posting for pheasants at the end of a grass draw. A bird flew out in front of the victim and the Shooter pulled up and shot at the bird. The victim was struck with numerous pellets from the knees to his head.

Cause: Game flew between the Shooter and Victim

Prevention: Know what is beyond your target, maintain a safe zone of fire

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Incident: Fourteen

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (X)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party (X)

Date and Day of the Week: 11/5/2005 (Saturday)

County of Incident: Webster

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 14

Hunter Education: Yes

Age: 67

Years Hunting Experience: 2

Blaze Orange Apparel: Yes

Game Hunted: Pheasant

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: 60 Yards

Attempting to Bag Game: Yes

Type of Cover: Open Field/Cropland

Firearm Used: Beretta 3901 American - 12 Gauge Shotgun

Narrative: Two members of the hunting party were walking a dredge ditch north. The other two members were walking adjacent to the ditch on the east side. The Victim and another hunter held their positions when the dog went on point in the bottom of the ditch. The Shooter walked to the edge of the ditch as another hunter entered the ditch to flush the bird. The pheasant flushed from the bottom of the ditch and flew north while gaining altitude. According to the rest of the party a single shot was fired by the Shooter killing the pheasant and also striking the Victim with pellets to the whole body.

Cause: Victim covered by Shooter swinging on game, game flew between the Shooter & Victim

Prevention: Know what is beyond your target, maintain a safe zone of fire

Incident: Fifteen

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (X)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted (X)

Same Party ()

Date and Day of the Week: 11/06/2005 (Sunday)

County of Incident: Jasper

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 35

Hunter Education: No

Age: N/A (Self Inflicted)

Years Hunting Experience: 20

Blaze Orange Apparel: Yes

Game Hunted: Pheasant

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: Contact (0")

Attempting to Bag Game: No

Type of Cover: Light Pasture

Firearm Used: Remington 870 Wingmaster - 12 Gauge Shotgun

Narrative: The Victim reached into a vehicle owned by another hunter to retrieve a 12 gauge shotgun that he was going to use to hunt pheasants. The firearm was uncased in the back of the van. The Victim reached in and grabbed the firearm by the muzzle and pulled the firearm, it is at this time that the firearm discharged a round that was in the chamber. The shot blast struck the Victim in the left hand and forearm.

Cause: Trigger caught on object, loaded firearm in vehicle, careless or reckless gun handling

Prevention: Do not place a loaded gun in a vehicle, keep muzzle pointed in a safe direction, keep gun on safe

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Incident: Sixteen

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (X)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted (X)

Same Party ()

Date and Day of the Week: 11/11/2005 (Friday)

County of Incident: Lyon

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 16

Hunter Education: Yes

Age: N/A (Self Inflicted)

Years Hunting Experience: 4

Blaze Orange Apparel: Yes

Game Hunted: Pheasant

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: 20 inches

Attempting to Bag Game: Yes

Type of Cover: Prairie

Firearm Used: Mossberg 88 - 12 Gauge Shotgun

Narrative: Two boys were hunting pheasants at a friends farm. Shooter/Victim fell and got mud in his gun barrel. A pheasant flushed and shooter/victim discharged his shotgun. Mud obstructing the gun barrel and caused it to fail. A piece of the barrel flew rearward hitting shooter/victim in the finger.

Cause: Obstruction in the barrel

Prevention: Make sure barrel is unobstructed prior to discharging firearm

Incident: Seventeen

Property Damage (X)

Personal Injury ()

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party ()

Date and Day of the Week: 11/19/2005

County of Incident: Clayton

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 64

Hunter Education: Yes

Property Damage: Pikes Peak State Park
Building

Years Hunting Experience: 53

Blaze Orange Apparel: Yes

Game Hunted: Deer

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: N/A

Attempting to Bag Game: No

Type of Cover: Parking Lot

Firearm Used: Mossberg - 12 Gauge Shotgun

Narrative: The Shooter was participating in a special deer hunt at Pikes Peak State Park. The Shooter was loading his gun when he dropped it. He went to pick it up and hit the trigger causing it to fire. The slug went through the van, entered the shop door, and went through an interior wall and exited the building on the south side.

Cause: Loading firearm in vehicle, Shooter dropped firearm and finger caught inside the trigger guard

Prevention: Keep firearm on safe until ready to shoot, keep muzzle pointed in a safe direction

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Incident: Eighteen

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (X)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted (X)

Same Party ()

Date and Day of the Week: 12/4/2005 (Sunday)

County of Incident: Jefferson

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 47

Hunter Education: Yes

Age: N/A (Self Inflicted)

Years Hunting Experience: 35

Blaze Orange Apparel: Yes

Game Hunted: Deer

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: Contact (0")

Attempting to Bag Game: No

Type of Cover: Pasture

Firearm Used: Remington 870 Wingmaster - 12 Gauge Shotgun

Narrative: The victim was attempting to remove the trigger assembly on a shotgun owned by another hunter. This was being done to attempt to remove a shell that was jammed in the action. The Victim was standing with his back against the inside of the opened passenger door of a pickup belonging to another hunter holding the shotgun with the bottom facing up, and the barrel of the shotgun between his legs. The gun discharged striking the Victim in the front, inside of the right thigh and exiting from the back of his thigh and passing through the bottom of the opened passenger door.

Cause: Unloading jammed firearm

Prevention: Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction

Incident: Nineteen

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury ()

Fatal (X)

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party (X)

Date and Day of the Week: 12/4/2005 (Sunday)

County of Incident: Johnson

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 55 Hunter Education: Yes

Age: 31

Years Hunting Experience: 30+

Blaze Orange Apparel: Yes

Game Hunted: Deer

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: ~136 Feet

Attempting to Bag Game: Yes

Type of Cover: timber/ravine

Firearm Used: Belknap B-65 - 12 Gauge Shotgun

Narrative: Two members of the party (Father & Son) were pushing deer towards two blockers. The Shooter & Victim both agreed that neither of them would go down in the draw and that both would call out to each other to make sure they stayed side by side on each side of the draw. Deer were running around in the bottom of the draw between the Shooter & Victim. The Shooter continued moving the deer towards the blockers and then he shot once at a walking deer and heard a very loud scream. The Victim had moved down into the draw and was fatally struck by the slug in the Torso. Due to heavy brush the Shooter could not see the Victim.

Cause: Victim mistaken for game, Dense brush/low visibility

Prevention: Properly identify your target before taking a shot, know what is beyond your target, always stick to your hunting plan

Incident: Twenty

Property Damage (X)

Personal Injury ()

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party ()

Date and Day of the Week: ~12/5/2005 (Monday)

County of Incident: Johnson

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: Unknown Hunter Education: Unknown

Property Damage: Westcott Heights
Housing Development

Years Hunting Experience: Unknown

Blaze Orange Apparel: Unknown

Game Hunted: Deer

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: N/A

Attempting to Bag Game: Unknown

Type of Cover: Unknown

Firearm Used: 12 Gauge Shotgun

Narrative: An unknown hunter shot a slug through the basement of a residence. The slug entered the side of the house causing damage to the wall, sink and ceiling of room.

Cause: Unknown - possibly game ran between Shooter and Residence

Prevention: Always know what is beyond your target, maintain a safe zone of fire

Incident: Twenty One

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (X)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted (X)

Same Party ()

Date and Day of the Week: 12/5/2005 (Monday)

County of Incident: Webster

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 40

Hunter Education: No

Age: N/A (Self Inflicted)

Years Hunting Experience: 30

Blaze Orange Apparel: Yes

Game Hunted: Deer

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: 1 foot

Attempting to Bag Game: No

Type of Cover: Dense Trees & Thick Brush

Firearm Used: Sears & Robuck - 12 Gauge Shotgun

Narrative: The Shooter/Victim attempted to walk through thick brush and lost his footing and slipped. In an attempt to regain his balance he lost control of his shotgun. The Shooter/Victim caused the shotgun to fire and a slug struck him in the left foot where the second and third toes articulate to the foot.

Cause: Shooter stumbled and fell, failure to maintain control of the muzzle

Prevention: Keep your gun on safe until you are ready to shoot, keep muzzle pointed in a safe direction

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Incident: Twenty Two

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (X)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted (X)

Same Party ()

Date and Day of the Week: 12/10/2005 (Saturday)

County of Incident: Adair

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 53

Hunter Education: No

Age: N/A (Self Inflicted)

Years Hunting Experience: 32

Blaze Orange Apparel: Yes

Game Hunted: Pheasant

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: 1 inch

Attempting to Bag Game: No

Type of Cover: Light Switch Grass

Firearm Used: Remington 1100 Special - 12 Gauge Shotgun

Narrative: The Shooter/Victim was cradling his gun under his left arm while attempting to put a bird in his hunting vest. The gun started to slip and the Shooter grabbed a hold of the gun. The gun discharged striking the Shooter/Victim one inch below the 4th toe and one inch to the right of the left side of his left foot.

Cause: Firearm fell, trigger caught on object

Prevention: Always keep your gun on safe until you are ready to shoot, pass your gun to another hunter when putting game away or unload your firearm before putting game away

Incident: Twenty Three

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (X)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted (X)

Same Party ()

Date and Day of the Week: 12/11/2005 (Sunday)

County of Incident: Cherokee

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 39

Hunter Education: No

Age: N/A (Self Inflicted)

Years Hunting Experience: 28

Blaze Orange Apparel: Yes

Game Hunted: Deer

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: 2 Feet

Attempting to Bag Game: Yes

Type of Cover: Light

Firearm Used: Remington 31 - 12 Gauge Shotgun

Narrative: Victim sustained injury to left thumb from explosion of barrel

Cause: Obstruction in barrel

Prevention: Make sure there are no obstructions in the firearm's barrel before discharging the gun

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Incident: Twenty Four

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (X)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted (X)

Same Party ()

Date and Day of the Week: 12/16/2005 (Friday)

County of Incident: Jefferson

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 18

Hunter Education: Yes

Age: N/A (Self Inflicted)

Years Hunting Experience: 7

Blaze Orange Apparel: Yes

Game Hunted: Deer

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: Contact (0")

Attempting to Bag Game: No

Type of Cover: Light Short Grass/Scattered
Trees

Firearm Used: Remington 870 Wingmaster - 20 Gauge Shotgun

Narrative: The Shooter/Victim was driving deer out of a brushy draw towards the other two hunters. The Shooter/Victim tripped and fell over a log causing the firearm to discharge. The slug entered the abdomen and exited just missing the kidney by 1/2 inch.

Cause: Shooter stumbled and fell

Prevention: Always keep your muzzle pointed in a safe direction, keep the gun on safe until ready to shoot

Incident: Twenty Five

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (X)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted (X)

Same Party ()

Date and Day of the Week: 12/23/2005 (Friday)

County of Incident: Hamilton

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 17

Hunter Education: Yes

Age: N/A (Self Inflicted)

Years Hunting Experience: 6

Blaze Orange Apparel: Yes

Game Hunted: Coyote/Pheasant

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: 6 Inches

Attempting to Bag Game: Yes

Type of Cover: Open Field/Cropland

Firearm Used: Marlin 60 - .22 Caliber Rifle

Narrative: The Shooter/Victim stated that he was hunting coyote and pheasant in a snow covered field. The Shooter/Victim shot a pheasant and thought he wounded it. As he began to run and chase the pheasant he switched the rifle he was carrying in his right hand to his left. As he did so, his finger was still inside the trigger guard. His finger pulled on the trigger, and the rifle discharged, striking him in the left foot. The bullet passed through his left foot top to bottom.

Cause: Trigger caught on object, failure to control muzzle direction, failure to engage safety

Prevention: Do not run with a firearm, keep gun on safe until ready to shoot, muzzle control and pointed in a safe direction

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Incident: Twenty Six

Property Damage ()

Personal Injury (X)

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party (X)

Date and Day of the Week: 12/27/2005 (Tuesday)

County of Incident: Tama

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 11

Hunter Education: No

Age: 39

Years Hunting Experience: 1

Blaze Orange Apparel: Yes

Game Hunted: Pheasant

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: ~20 Yards

Attempting to Bag Game: Yes

Type of Cover: Light Field/Cropland
(Food Plot)

Firearm Used: Remington Sportsman 58 - 16 Gauge Shotgun

Narrative: Victim (Father) & Shooter (Son) were pheasant hunting at a preserve. The pheasant flushed and flew low to the ground toward the Victim. The Shooter shot striking both the pheasant and the Victim. The Victim sustained pellet wounds to both of his legs.

Cause: The Shooter shot beyond his zone of fire, Game flew between Shooter & Victim, Shooter was fixated on game, reduced visibility due to foggy conditions

Prevention: Shoot only in a safe zone of fire, know what is beyond your target

This Is Why We Do What We Do...



Continuing the Iowa Tradition

